Amendments to the Claims

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of the claims in the application:

1-35. Canceled

36. (new) A container having a longitudinal axis, an upper portion having an opening into the container, a body portion extending from the upper portion to a lower portion, the lower portion including a base, the base closing off an end of the container, the container having at least one substantially transversely oriented pressure panel located in the lower portion, the pressure panel comprising a portion being inclined at an angle of more than 10° relative to a plane orthogonal to the longitudinal axis and the pressure panel portion being configured to be capable of folding from the inclined position to an inverted position to change an internal volume within the container.

37. (new) A container according to claim 36, wherein said portion that is inclined is inclined at an angle of between approximately 30° and approximately 45°.

38. (new) A container according to claim 36, wherein said inclined portion is inwardly inclined relative to an interior portion of the container and configured to be capable of folding from the inwardly inclined position to an inverted position to increase the internal volume within the container.

39. (new) A container according to claim 36, wherein said inclined portion is outwardly inclined relative to an interior portion of the container and configured to be capable of folding from the outwardly inclined position to an inverted position to reduce the internal volume within the container.

40. (New) A container according to claim 36, wherein the pressure panel comprises an initiator portion and a control portion, the initiator portion having less resistance to pressure folding forces and configured to provide for folding of the control portion.

41. (New) A container according to claim 40, wherein said inclined portion is outwardly inclined relative to an interior portion of the container and the initiator portion is configured to cause the control portion to invert and flex further inwardly into the container.

42. (New) A container according to claim 40, wherein the initiator portion is located adjacent to a widest periphery of the pressure panel.

43. (New) A container according to claim 40, wherein said inclined portion is the control portion.

44. (New) A container according to claim 40, wherein the initiator portion is inclined at an angle that is substantially the same as or less than that of the control portion.

45. (New) A container according to claim 42, wherein said inclined portion is outwardly inclined relative to an interior portion of the container and the initiator portion is outwardly inclined relative to an interior portion of the container at an angle to said orthogonal plane that is at least 10^{o} less than the control portion.

46. (New) A container according to claim 45, wherein the control portion is outwardly inclined relative to an interior portion of the container at an angle of between approximately 30^{o} and 45^{o}.

47. (New) A container according to claim 36, wherein the pressure panel is capable of folding from the inclined position to an inverted position to compensate for a change of pressure induced in the container.

48. (New) A container according to claim 47, wherein the pressure panel provides compensation for reduced pressure induced within the container, in use, such that less force is exerted on walls of the container.

49. (New) A container according to claim 48, wherein the reduced pressure is induced by the cooling of a heated liquid within the container.

50. (New) A container according to or claim 49, wherein the compensation is such that there is substantially no reduced pressure within the container.

51. (New) A container according to claim 47, wherein the pressure panel is configured to be capable of folding from an inverted position to the inclined position to compensate for an increase in pressure induced in the container.

52. (New) A container according to claim 51, wherein the pressure panel is configured so that in use the pressure panel provides compensation for increased pressure induced within the container following heating of a liquid within the container.

53. (New) A container according to claim 36, wherein the pressure panel is configured to resist being expanded from the inverted position.

54. (New) A container according to claim 36, wherein the pressure panel is configured to invert longitudinally under an externally applied mechanical force.

55. (New) A container according to claim 36, wherein the pressure panel is of varied width and inverts from a widest portion to a narrowest portion of the pressure panel.

56. (New) A container according to claim 36, wherein the pressure panel is configured to cause the base to retract longitudinally further into the body portion.

57. (New) A container according to claim 56, wherein the pressure panel is configured to cause a lowest portion of the base to be replaced as the structure providing a standing support for the container.

58. (New) A container according to claim 36, wherein its structure is configured such that in use a top load applied to the container is transferred from the base to a portion of a sidewall of the container.

59. (New) A container according to claim 36, wherein the pressure panel is connected with a lower portion of a sidewall of the container by a decoupling or hinge structure.

60. (New) A container according to claim 36, wherein the pressure panel includes outwardly projecting portions.

61. (New) A container according to claim 36, wherein the pressure panel includes inwardly projecting portions.

62. (New) A container according to claim 36, wherein the base further includes a substantially centrally located inwardly projecting portion joined adjacent to an inside border of the pressure panel and closing off a bottom of the container.

63. (New) A container according to claim 62, wherein the upwardly projecting portion is configured to move upwardly when the pressure panel inverts.

64. (New) A container according to claim 36, wherein the pressure panel is in the base.

65. (New) A container according to claim 36, wherein the pressure panel includes a plurality of flutes forming a conical area in the base.

66. (New) A container according to claim 36, further including a standing ring surrounding the pressure panel for providing container stability when the pressure panel is in an inverted position.

67. (New) A container according to claim 66 and further including a recessed instep adjacent to an inside border of the standing ring, the instep surrounding the pressure panel portion and being displaced higher within the container than an upper border of the pressure panel.

68. (New) A container according to claim 67, further including a decoupling structure connecting an adjacent widest border of the pressure panel portion with the instep, the decoupling structure providing for greater inward and upward longitudinal movement of the pressure panel.

69. (New) A container according to claim 68 wherein the decoupling structure is relatively flat when compared to a side wall of the container.

70. (New) A container according to claim 68 wherein the decoupling structure is relatively non-ribbed, and separates the widest border of the pressure panel from the recessed instep.

71. (New) A container according to claim 36, wherein the pressure panel has no strengthening ribs to restrain substantial longitudinal movement and inversion.

72. (New) A container according to claim 36, wherein:
the container includes a standing ring which defines a support surface upon which the container is supported,
the base includes a central portion,
the pressure panel circumscribes the central portion and defines an inwardly inclined shaped portion when the container is filled and sealed, the inwardly inclined shaped portion defined by a surface which is sloped toward the longitudinal axis of the container at an angle of more than about 10° relative to the support surface, and
the central portion and the pressure panel portion are configured to be moveable to accommodate vacuum forces generated within the container.

73. (New) A plastic container, including: a closed base connecting with a standing support that provides a substantially flat rigid surface, the base including a central annular flexible portion that has a portion inclined at an angle of more than 10° relative to a plane orthogonal to a longitudinal axis of the container and that is configured to flex from a convex to a concave configuration relative to a support surface; a body portion extending above the base, the body portion including a wall portion and a neck portion extending above the body portion, the neck portion including a dispensing opening; wherein a transition between the standing support and the central flexible portion is configured to be permitted to flex, and the central flexible portion is configured to contract upwardly relative to the standing support in response to a vacuum generated within the container and the wall portion is configured to remain substantially unchanged.

74. (New) A method of causing a rise in pressure in a container, the method comprising:

filling a container with a liquid, the container having a longitudinal axis, an upper portion defining an opening into the container, a body portion extending from the upper portion to a lower portion, the lower portion including a base, the base closing off an end of the container, the container having at least one substantially transversely oriented pressure panel located in the lower portion, the pressure panel comprising a portion being or being configurable to be outwardly inclined at an angle of more than 10° relative to a plane orthogonal to the longitudinal axis;

capping and/or sealing the container; and

causing a force to be applied to the container to fold the pressure panel from the inclined position to an inverted position to cause a rise in pressure within the container.

75. (New) A method according to claim 74, wherein the force applied to the container is an externally applied mechanical force.

76. (New) A method according to claim 74, wherein the pressure panel comprises an initiator portion and a control portion, the initiator portion having less resistance to pressure folding forces and providing for folding before the control portion, and the force applied to the container is generated by a change in pressure within the container.

77. (New) A method according to claim 74, wherein the rise in pressure compensates for a reduction in pressure within the container.

78. (New) A method according to claim 77, wherein the container is filled with a heated liquid and the liquid cools after the container is capped.

79. (New) A method according to claim 77, wherein the rise in pressure is such that the resultant pressure within the container is substantially equal to or greater than ambient pressure.

80. (New) A method according to claim 74, comprising imposing a force on the pressure panel to move the pressure panel from the inverted position to the outwardly inclined position prior to filling, capping or causing a force to be applied.

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